Appl. No. 10/723,592 Amdt. sent March 24, 2005 Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure Examining Group 2631

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-11 are pending.

Claims 12-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 for allegedly being anticipated by Yamada (U.S. Pat. No. 4,288,874).

It is noted with appreciation that claims 2-11 are allowed.

The Section 102 rejection of claims 12-18 is traversed. However, in order to conclude prosecution of the instant application, claims 12-18 have been canceled without prejudice.

Pending claims 2-11 are believed to be in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

George B. F. Yee Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor

San Francisco, California 94111-3834

Tel: 650-326-2400 Fax: 415-576-0300

GBFY 60426978 v1